MODIFIED PTO/SB/08a (05-07) Approved for use through 11/30/2007.

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

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Application Number	10/580,692		
Confirmation Number	4380		
Filing Date	August 11, 2006		
First Named Inventor	Shinsuke NAKANE		
Art Unit	1791		
Examiner Name	Adrienne C. Johnstone		
Attorney Docket Number	Q94603		

U.S. PATENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No	Patent Number	Kind Code <sup>1</sup>	Issue Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1	5499670		1996-03-19	Billieres	

	U.S. PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATIONS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No	Publication Number	Kind Code <sup>1</sup>	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear		
	1							

	FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No	Foreign Document Number <sup>3</sup>	Country Code <sup>2</sup>	Kind Code <sup>4</sup>	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T⁵
	1	0 448 905	EP	A1	1991-10-02	The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company		
	2	09-267609	JP		1997-10-14	The Yokohama Rubber Co., Ltd.		Abstract
	3	2003-154806	JP	А	2003-05-27	Bridgestone Corp.		Abstract

	NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	T⁵				
	1	Notification of First Office Action issued July 4, 2008, in corresponding CN Application No. 2004800346428, Chinese and English, 12 pages.	Yes				

EXAMINER SIGNATURE					
Examiner Signature		Date Considered			

<sup>\*</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through a citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.USPTO.GOV or MPEP 901.04. 2 Enter office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 3 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 4 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 5 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.